

detail than in the FDA report—but if the press and the journals had looked at this and given the same visibility to these grave reservations that were expressed, the indications of various effects and the concerns about the long-term use, and if that had been on the front page of all the papers, the result would have been exactly the same as the result from taking the same testimony and having it in this committee.

You would be reaching the same conclusion.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Yes, but I think it is pretty obvious that the spoken word is more likely to be paid attention to than the written word. I think that these hearings, of course—as you say, the same materials can be brought out, but when they are spoken with an authoritative voice, it means much more than between the pages of a rather sterile document.

The newspapers are likely, obviously, to pay attention to the spoken word, not the written word. This is human nature, sir, and this is no exception to it.

Senator NELSON. Does that not still raise the question whether or not the FDA report by a committee appointed by the Government, a committee of distinguished gynecologists and clinicians of various kinds, to evaluate the pill should be a matter of public knowledge? Should it not be disseminated to the people of this country, where we have 8,500,000 women using the pill, 10 million in other countries?

Is this not something they ought to have a chance to see and read?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I think you misinterpret me. I have not attacked the hearings, sir. I do not think I have. I am unhappy about the results on our patients in my clinics. This distresses me because I do not think that anything has changed materially.

I think they could wait a little longer, but I think there has been a very sudden kind of stampede. This, of course, I regret.

Now, whether the hearings could have been differently tailored so that this was not the result, it is certainly not within not my competence to tell you. You are much more experienced at this than I am.

I am not attacking the hearings. I believe in free speech. I believe everybody has a right to be heard. But unfortunately, when it comes to medical matters, the negative is so often more clearly understood than the positive by lay people. This is just the nature of the problem, sir. I have not the solution to it.

Senator NELSON. Well, my own view is that this is about the only solution that there is. My own view, furthermore, is that you will conclude, yourself, after a couple of years that the greatest benefit to the pill and the development of more effective devices, or one of the great benefits, is the effect of these hearings. But what we faced here was a situation in which the drug manufacturer's literature is being promoted, the literature that is promoting the pill. You reject the statement in the literature. But that is what the users get. What is the responsibility of the Government, which does the studies, licenses the pills, approves the package insert which goes to the druggist and most of the time does not get to the physician because he does not